

Exhibit A

-----Original Message-----

From: Carl Schwedler [mailto:cschwedler@mhalaw.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2004 3:29 PM
To: Randy Skaar
Subject: Battens

Dear Randy,

Please give me a call when you have had a chance to review the prior art below. We need to resolve this quickly.

US Patent No. 5794396

<http://patimg2.uspto.gov/piw?Docid=05794396&homeurl=http%3A%2F%2Fpatft.uspto.gov%2Fnetacgi%2Fnph-Parser%3FSect1%3DPTO2%2526Sect2%3DHITOFF%2526u%3D%2Fnetahml%2Fsearch-adv.htm%2526r%3D1%2526p%3D1%2526f%3DG%2526l%3D50%2526d%3Dpxt%2526S1%3D5794396.WKU.%2526OS%3Dpn%2F5794396%2526RS%3DPN%2F5794396&PageNum=&Rtype=&SectionNum=&idkey=4087330D1E18>

US Patent No. 5617690

<http://patimg2.uspto.gov/piw?Docid=05617690&homeurl=http%3A%2F%2Fpatft.uspto.gov%2Fnetacgi%2Fnph-Parser%3FSect2%3DPTO1%2526Sect2%3DHITOFF%2526u%3D1%2526l%3D%2526f%2Fnetahml%25252Fsearch-bool.html%2526r%3D1%2526f%3DG%2526l%3D50%2526d%3DPALL%2526S1%3D5617690.WKU.%2526OS%3DPN%2F5617690%2526RS%3DPN%2F5617690&PageNum=&Rtype=&SectionNum=&idkey=9FA15289F30A>

US Patent No. 5471807

<http://patimg1.uspto.gov/piw?Docid=05471807&homeurl=http%3A%2F%2Fpatft.uspto.gov%2Fnetacgi%2Fnph-Parser%3FSect1%3DPTO2%2526Sect2%3DHITOFF%2526u%3D%2Fnetahml%2Fsearch-adv.htm%2526r%3D1%2526p%3D1%2526f%3DG%2526l%3D50%2526d%3Dpxt%2526S1%3D5471807.WKU.%2526OS%3Dpn%2F5471807%2526RS%3DPN%2F5471807&PageNum=&Rtype=&SectionNum=&idkey=2DB1A495020E>

US Patent No. 4418505

<http://patimg1.uspto.gov/piw?Docid=04418505&homeurl=http%3A%2F%2Fpatft.uspto.gov%2Fnetacgi%2Fnph-Parser%3FSect1%3DPTO2%2526Sect2%3DHITOFF%2526u%3D%2Fnetahml%2Fsearch-adv.htm%2526r%3D1%2526p%3D1%2526f%3DG%2526l%3D50%2526d%3Dpxt%2526S1%3D4418505.WKU.%2526OS%3Dpn%2F4418505%2526RS%3DPN%2F4418505&PageNum=&Rtype=&SectionNum=&idkey=1B80A495020E>

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GB 20 62 056

[http://i2.espacenet.com/espacenet/bnsviewer?
CY=gb&LG=en&DB=EPD&PN=GB2062056&ID=GB+++2062056A++i+](http://i2.espacenet.com/espacenet/bnsviewer?CY=gb&LG=en&DB=EPD&PN=GB2062056&ID=GB+++2062056A++i+)

Best regards,

Carl

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